

B. Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claim 147 and add new claims 179 and 180 as follows.

1-146. (Cancelled)

147. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery comprising:

a negative electrode substantially made of a lithium or lithium compound

negative electrode active material;

a positive electrode comprising a positive electrode active material, wherein said negative electrode and positive electrode are separated by a separator;

an electrolyte or an electrolytic solution held between said negative electrode and said positive electrode; and

at least ~~a one layer selected from the group consisting of a conductor layer, a semiconductor layer and an insulating layer, disposed between said negative electrode and said separator, wherein said conductor layer~~ comprising comprises a carbon fiber having a specific area of 10 m²/g and a void ratio of at least 50% disposed between said negative electrode and said separator.

148-151. (Cancelled)

152. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein said layer is in contact with said negative electrode active material.

153. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein said layer is in contact with said separator.

154. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein said layer covers at least a surface of said negative electrode active material adjacent to said separator.

155. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein said layer is pressed and secured to a surface of said negative electrode active material.

156. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein said layer covers at least a surface of said separator adjacent to said negative electrode.

157. (Previously Presented) A secondary battery according to claim 152, wherein said layer is pressed and secured to said separator.

158-178. (Cancelled)

179. (New) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein a semiconductor layer comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of C, Ni, Ti, Pt and Si is also disposed between said negative electrode and said separator.

180. (New) A secondary battery according to claim 147, wherein an insulating layer comprising at least one insulator selected from the group consisting of a halide, a nitride and a carbide is also disposed between said negative electrode and said separator.